

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated April 27, 2006, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments to the claims have been made in consequence thereof. Claims 1-8 had been canceled. Claims 9, 10, and 15 are amended, and claim 16 is canceled in order to advance the prosecution of this application. Claims 9-15 remain active in this application.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the teachings of claim 16, which has been canceled. Claim 10 has been amended to depend on amended claim 9. Claim 15 has been amended to include the teachings of claim 9, said teachings of claim 9 being those prior to claim 9 being amended hereunder.

The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodriguez et al. and Angelopoulos et al. in view of Kinlen et al..

The Examiner stated that claims 10-11 and 15-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have complied with the Examiner's recommendations by amending claims 9, 10 and 15.

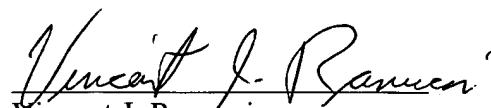
Applicants assert that claims 9-15 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, and that claims 9-15 distinguish the present invention over the teachings of Rodriquez et al. and Angelopoulos et al. in view of Kinlen et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that Claims 9-15 in this application are allowable and Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner wish to contact Applicants' attorney regarding this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to do so by calling or writing the undersigned in the Office of Counsel, U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center, Natick, MA 01760 at (508) 233-4510.

Respectfully submitted,

MAY 12, 2006
Date


Vincent J. Ranucci
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. # 29,579